

Art History 383 –The Arts of Southeast Asia

Art and Kingship in Pre-Modern Southeast Asia

Prof. Robert DeCaroli

Tues and Thurs 3:00-4:15

Arts Building 2026

Course Description/Objectives:

Strategically located for trade, rich in resources and containing a surprising variety of cultural traditions, the civilizations of mainland and island Southeast Asia are among the most dynamic and unique in the world. This course will examine the various cultural and artistic traditions of ancient Southeast Asia from the earliest archaeological evidence to the onset of colonialism. The lectures and discussions will focus on the material culture of the great civilizations that arose within the borders of modern Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Burma (Myanmar), Vietnam, Laos, and Malaysia. A goal of the course will be to understand the cultural, political and religious factors, which gave rise to the creation of these works. Special emphasis will be given to the development of state formation, the role of kingship, the impact of foreign influences and the role of trade in the exchange of ideas.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:30 and by appointment in Robinson B371D

Email: rdecarol@gmu.edu

Please be aware, this course fulfills the Mason Core Global Understanding requirement (not the Arts requirement)

Course Requirements 383:	Participation	10%
	2 Quizzes	10%
	Midterm	25%
	Thesis Proposal	5%
	Research Paper	25%
	Final	25%

The class meetings will consist of lecture-discussions on specific topics with occasional discussions based on the weekly readings. These meetings will form the core of the course material so it is strongly advised that you attend class consistently

The quizzes will be comprised of Image Identification questions and Terms. The Midterm and Final will be longer versions of the quizzes and will also include Essay Questions.

Term Lists and Image Reviews are available on the MyMason Blackboard website.

The Thesis Proposal is one page and the Research Paper will be 5-7 pages in length. I will be happy to look at rough drafts. More information on the paper assignment will be provided later in the term

Grading Policies:

A	100-93%	C+	79-77%
A-	92-90%	C	76-73%
B+	89-87%	C-	72-70%
B	86-83%	D	69-60%
B-	82-80%	F	59% and lower

Attendance is necessary; much of the material will only be presented in class lectures and discussions. You are responsible for keeping up with the material and for getting notes for missed classes.

A student's class participation grade will be evaluated not according to the amount of talking that student does, but rather according to whether that student contributes thoughtfully and constructively, based on a careful consideration of the class readings. Obviously, students cannot contribute to class discussion if they are absent; consequently, repeated unexcused absences will be reflected in their participation grade.

Make-up tests and extensions will be given ONLY in cases of emergencies or illnesses with proper documentation (doctors note etc.) In all other cases (family obligations, religious holidays etc.), extensions may be granted if I am informed well BEFORE the deadline.

Papers are due IN CLASS on the day specified in the schedule. Late papers will be marked down five points (half a grade) for every weekday and ten points (a full grade) for every weekend they are late.

Papers will be handed back once in class. If you are not present on the day papers are handed back it is your responsibility to ask me for the graded assignment.

Adherence to codes of academic honesty is expected on all assignments and in all testing situations. I take the Honor Code (as stipulated in the university undergraduate catalog) very seriously. This code is a simple expression of respect for the course, your classmates and yourself. Cheating and Plagiarism are forbidden (obviously).

For those who do not know what Plagiarism is, it can be defined as: presenting as one's own the words, work or opinions of someone else without giving them proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism can also refer to borrowing the sequence of ideas, arrangement of material, or pattern of thought of someone else without giving them proper credit. Plagiarism can be avoided by proper use of footnotes.

Texts:

Readings for this class are available on the MyMason Blackboard site (under Course Content) or on JSTOR – as indicated on the syllabus

mymason.gmu.edu

JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/>

Readings and Lectures: (This schedule is subject to change)

----Readings need to be completed BEFORE the day under which they are listed----

Week 1

Aug 29: Introduction

Aug 31: Banchieng and Dongson Cultures: Bronze Age

A. J. Bernet Kempers, The Kettledrums of Southeast Asia: A Bronze Age World and Its Aftermath. (A.A. Balkema. Rotterdam, Brookfield, 1988). 65-81 (**Blackboard**)

Week 2

Sept 5: Foreign Contact: Indian Influences (Hinduism)

Monica L. Smith. "'Indianization' from the Indian Point of View: Trade and Cultural Contacts with Southeast Asia in the Early First Millennium CE" Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient, Vol. 42, No. 1 (1999), pp. 1-26 (**JSTOR**)

Sept 7: Foreign Contact: Indian Influences (Buddhism)

Richard Davis. "Introduction" in Religions of India in Practice. (Princeton UP: Princeton, 1995) 18-31. (**Blackboard**)

Week 3

Sept 12: Cambodia: The Rise of Angkor - Mandala States and God-Kings

Paul A. Lavy. "As in Heaven, so on Earth: The Politics of Viṣṇu, Śiva and Harihara Images in Preangkorian Khmer Civilisation." Journal of Southeast Asian Studies. Vol. 34, No. 1, (Feb., 2003) 21-39 (**JSTOR**)

Sept 14: Cambodia: Classic Angkor – Angkor Wat

Week 4

Sept 19: Cambodia: Classic Angkor - Angkor Thom

O. W. Wolters, "Khmer 'Hinduism' in the 7th Century," in Early South East Asia: Essays in Archaeology, History and Historical Geography. R.B Smith ed. (Oxford UP: Oxford, 1979) 427-443 (**Blackboard**)

Sept 21: Into the Present Cambodia: ----- Quiz #1

Week 5

Sept 26:

Burma (Myanmar): The Pyu and Mon Cultures -----

Research Paper Assigned

U Kan Hla. "Ancient Cities in Burma", The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. Vol. 38 No. 2. 1979. 95-102. (JSTOR)

Sept 28:

Burma: Anawratha and the Rise of Pagan (Bagan)

Hmannàn Naha Yazawintawyi: Glass Palace Chronicle of the Kings of Burma. Pe Maung Tin and G.H. Luce trans. London, 1923. 105-111. (Blackboard)

Week 6

Oct 3:

Burma: Kyanzittha and the Kingdom of Pagan

Oct 5:

Burma: To the Present

Michael Aung Thwin. "The Role of Sasana Reform in Burmese History: Economic Dimensions of a Religious Purification" The Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 38, No. 4 (Aug., 1979), pp. 671-688 (JSTOR)

Week 7

Oct 10:

Columbus Day Holiday

Oct 12:

----- Midterm Exam

Week 8

Oct 17:

Indonesia: The Dieng Plateau

Philip Rawson. The Art of Southeast Asia. World of Art series. (London: Thames and Hudson. 1967). 203-239 (Blackboard)

Oct 19:

Library Day - Meet at Library – Room 1014A Fenwick 1st Floor
Guest instructor: Stephanie Grimm, Art and Art History Librarian
Bring your laptop if you have one

Week 9

Oct 24:

Indonesia: Sailendra and Borobudur

J.G de Casparis. "The Dual Nature of Barabadur" in Barabadur: History and Significance of a Buddhist Monument. (Asian Humanities Press: Berkeley, 1981) 47-84. (Blackboard)

Oct 26:

Indonesia: The Sanjaya

Ramayana. Valmiki. William Buck trans.(UC California Press: Los Angeles, 1976) 293-307. (Blackboard)

Week 10

Oct 31:

Indonesia: To the Present

Hugh O'Neill. "South-east Asia" in The Mosque: History, Architectural Development, and Regional Diversity. M. Frishman and H.U. Khan eds. (Thames and Hudson: New York, 2002) 225-240. **(Blackboard)**

Nov 2: Thailand: Dvaravati – Mon and Early Thai --- Thesis Proposal Due

Week 11

Nov 7: Thailand: Ram Kamhaeng and the Rise of Sukhothai

Read the Ramkamhaeng inscription on this website:
<http://www.seasite.niu.edu:85/Thai/inscription/inscription1.htm>

Nov 9: Thailand: Sukhothai

M.L. Pattaratorn Chirapavati "Wat Ratburana: Deposits of History, Art, and Culture of the Early Ayutthaya Period" in The Kingdom of Siam: The Art of Central Thailand, 1350-1800. (Asian Art Museum: San Francisco, 2005) 81-93. **(Blackboard)**

Week 12

Nov 14: Thailand: The Rise of Ayutthaya----- Quiz #2

Nov 16: Thailand: To the Present

Chronicle of the Emerald Buddha. Camille Notton trans. (Consul of France 1933) 11-35. **(Blackboard)**

Week 13

Nov 21: Class Cancelled

Nov 23: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14

Nov 28: Class Cancelled (Replaced with private tour of Smithsonian Exhibit)
The date of the class visit, to be decided

Nov 30: Vietnam: Dai Viet ----- Research Paper Due

Week 15

Dec 5: Vietnam: Champa

Dec 7: Vietnam: To the Present

Trien Nguyen. "Lakṣmīndralokeśvara, Main Deity of the Đồng Dương Monastery: A Masterpiece of Cham Art and a New Interpretation." Artibus Asiae, Vol. 65, No. 1 (2005), 5-38 **(JSTOR)**

Week 16

Final Exam ---

Thursday Dec. 14 1:30-4:15